



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN JAPAN

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THE SITUATION

- Japan- a transit and destination country for women and children who are trafficked from China, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America for sexual and labor exploitation
 - ▶ Trafficking victims forced into sexual exploitation in strip clubs, sex shops, hostess bars, etc.
- Traffickers are part of Japanese organized crime groups, especially the Yakuza.
- Most women recruited were completely deceived about the purpose of their recruitment.
 - ▶ Deceptive recruitment methods include:
 - promise of different kind of work
 - promise of higher wages
 - promise of fair living accommodation
 - not informed about debt prior to arrival
- Victims hampered by their lack of Japanese, lack of understanding of Japanese welfare/labour/legal systems, and support from friends or family.

DEBT

- Victims are faced with a debt upon arrival (\$26,000~\$43,000) for their living expenses, medical care, etc.
- Women receive money from clients and pay their broker/manager.
 - ▶ earnings controlled by brokers
- Frequently have to pay 10,000 a day for the 'right' to work in a specific place.
- Very few manage to pay their debt.
 - ▶ amount is too high
 - ▶ have systems of fines for minor offences such as being late
- If the employer does not think the woman will be profitable, he will sell her and the debt starts all over again.

EFFECTS ON THE VICTIM

- Trafficked women may show symptoms of trauma.
- Victims are faced with threats to kill their family members.
- Sometimes they have physical and psychological problems in addition to financial problems.
- Some are subjugated to use drugs by their employers and end up in jail.



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